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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Michael A. Epstein

Serial No.: 08/994,878

Filed: 12/19/97

Title: ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE KEYS IN A NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT

Atty. Docket No.: PHA 23,313

Group Art Unit: 2766

Examiner: Ho S. Song

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment/Reply to Office Action

Sir:

Enclosed is an amendment and reply in the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated 10/05/99.

Please amend the Specification as follows.

Page 5, line 8: please change "When the When the" with --When the--.

Page 7, line 23: please delete "and .".

Please amend the Claims as follows.

Claim 3, line 1, please change "form said" to --from said--.

Claim 4, line 1, please change "form said" to --from said--.

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Sub B3
11. (Amended) A system for administering private keys for a plurality of users, comprising:

computer readable storage means and

a server,

characterized in that: [there is stored]

A1
the storage means includes therein respective IDs and encrypted private keys for the respective users which private keys have been encrypted using respective keys determined from respective user identifying information, and

the server is configured:

to read an encrypted private key from the storage means associated with an ID corresponding to a particular user and

to transmit the encrypted private key to the particular user.